

AMENDMENT
Page 4

Appl. No. 10/726,692

REMARKS

Claims 6-11 are pending. Claims 1-5 and 12-17 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 6-11 and 18-20 stand rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim that which is considered the invention. Specifically, the Office Action asserts that the identifications of FP3, FP4, FP5, FP6, FP7, FP8, FP9 and FP10 are not correlated to any structural properties of sequence identifiers. In response, the claims have been amended to provide the appropriate SEQ ID Nos. for each of the foregoing identifiers the first time each appears in the claims, as required by the Office Action. Reconsideration is respectfully requested. No new matter has been entered.

Claims 6-11 and 18-20 additionally stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by one or more of Kirchhoff et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,876,734), Browning et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,171,589), Web et al. (Biol. Chem. 1988 May 22: 273(21): 13339-46); and Rico et al. (1996, J. Dermatological Science 12: 238-245). However, in light of the amendments to the claims, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Specifically, as none of the cited references teach or suggest polypeptides corresponding to the recited polypeptides, as now identified, Applicants respectfully present that cited references do not anticipate other otherwise make obvious the claimed invention.

Applicants respectfully request entry of the above amendments and passage of the application to allowance. If any issues remain which may best be resolved through a telephone communication, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT

Appl. No. 10/726,692

Page 5

If any additional fee is necessary to make this paper timely or complete, it may be charged to the undersigned's deposit account number 19-4375.

Respectfully submitted,



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